H.o 15

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To the Right Honourable, and Right Worſhipfull, the Knights and Burgeſſes of the Lower Howſe of Parliament:

The humble Petition of the Artizan Cloth-workers of London.

HVmbly ſhewing to this Honorable Houſe, That whereas in formes times there were many good Lawes and Ordinances made for the dreſſing of Cloth in this Land, namely in the 33th of *Henry* 8. it doth appoynt that all Clothes aboue foure pounds price ſhould be dreſſed before they be tranſported; which Law is not yet abrogated. And ſince in the 8th of *Elizabeth*: That the tenth white ſhould be rowed, barbed and ſhorne, before it be ſent ouer: And all Clothes died in the Wooll ſhould haue their full Manufacture. Alſo ſince thoſe ſayd Acts, it pleaſed his Maieſtie to make Proclamation, That all Cloth ſhould be dreſſed and died before it was tranſported; which was begun to be put in execution: And had there not contentions ariſen among the Merchants, we doubt not, but it would haue gone forwards, to the great benefit of the whole Land in generall. And when the Merchants Aduenturers had procured the trade of White Cloth againe, they promiſed his Maieſtie that they would dreſſe all the Weſterne Plonkets, which they tranſported: And that they would viſit all their Whites before they ſent them away, by wetting two of the skore, and by new foulding the reſt; whereby we ſhould haue ſome imployment. But now we haue not onely loſt the benefit of the former Statutes, for all Whites to be dreſt and died, and the two in the skore, but the Plonkets alſo; and for their Whites, few are viſited.

Wherefore we humbly beſeech this Honourable Houſe, that free leaue may be giuen to all men that will dreſſe and dye Cloth, or ſet others on worke in dreſſing and dying of Cloth, or any other new Manufacture, made of Wooll, or part of Wooll, or Cotton Wooll: That they may haue free libertie to export the ſame beyond the Seas, there to ſell them: But not to export any white Cloth, but that to bee left to the Merchants aduenturers. The reaſon wherefore we intreate for this, is not onely for the ſupplying of our owne neceſſities, although they be very great (we being thouſands) but that wee are perſwaded it will be profitable to the whole Common-Wealth, to his Maieſty in Cuſtomes, to the Wooll-growers in ſales of their Wooll, to the Clothier in ſale of his Cloth and ſtuffes of all ſorts, and to innumerable poore people which are workers. If therefore, it ſhall pleaſe this honourable *Houſe* well to conſider of the premiſes, and ſo to grant our requeſts, not onely wee poore Petitioners, but alſo (we are perſwaded) many thouſands more ſhall be bound to praiſe God for you, and daily pray, &c.

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Broadsides
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